

# News

U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
PO Box 193766  
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



---

**CONTACT:**

**Stanley P. Stephenson (415) 975-4373**

**Nancy A. Treadwell (415) 975-4403**

**Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro9/ro9news.htm>**

**Fax-On-Demand (415) 975-4567 Code: #9175**

**BLS 01-73**

**FOR RELEASE:**

**Friday, October 19, 2001**

**SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND-SAN JOSE AREA  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: SEPTEMBER 2001  
GROCERY PRICES, SHELTER, AND HOUSEHOLD FUELS DECLINE,  
WHILE GASOLINE PRICES RISE**

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) food at home index, declined 0.2 percent in September, matching the August decrease. Compared to one year ago, however, grocery prices are 3.3 percent higher. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics said the food at home index now stands at 189.5. This means grocery shoppers in the greater Bay Area need to spend \$189.50 today for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

The shelter index decreased 0.3 percent over the month, influenced by declines in lodging away from home, an unpublished shelter component. In September, the other shelter sub-categories, rent of primary residence and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence, showed 0.5 percent increases. These two indexes measured gains of 11.6 and 11.3 percent, respectively, from one year ago.

The special aggregate index for energy advanced 1.9 percent over the month, matching its annual gain. Within the energy index, higher gasoline prices countered the declines in household fuels over the month. Further, gasoline prices jumped 9.0 percent in September, partially offsetting the 17.0 percent decrease from May to August. Nevertheless, consumers paid 8.0 percent less for gasoline than they did a year ago. The household fuels index declined 5.3 percent in September, yet showed an over-the-year gain of 17.2 percent. Within household fuels, prices for utility natural gas service have dropped for the second month in a row, down 21.4 percent in August and 20.2 percent in September. Alternatively, costs for electricity have remained unchanged for the third consecutive month. Over the year, the electricity index surged 47.1 percent, while the index for utility natural gas fell 29.8 percent.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Sep. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items .....	-	191.0	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100) .....	-	587.2	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	-	183.5	-	-	-	-
Food .....	-	183.8	-	-	-	-
Food at home .....	190.2	189.8	189.5	3.3	-0.4	-0.2
Food away from home .....	-	177.1	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	-	182.9	-	-	-	-
Housing .....	-	219.7	-	-	-	-
Shelter .....	247.0	248.1	247.3	10.5	0.1	-0.3
Rent of primary residence (1).....	255.3	256.8	258.0	11.6	1.1	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) .....	264.8	266.3	267.6	11.3	1.1	0.5
Fuels and utilities .....	-	187.9	-	-	-	-
Fuels .....	210.2	196.7	186.2	17.2	-11.4	-5.3
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	210.7	196.4	185.8	18.0	-11.8	-5.4
Electricity (1).....	233.7	233.7	233.7	47.1	0.0	0.0
Utility natural gas service (1).....	191.6	150.6	120.2	-29.8	-37.3	-20.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	-	132.3	-	-	-	-
Apparel .....	-	108.9	-	-	-	-
Transportation .....	-	141.1	-	-	-	-
Private transportation .....	-	133.9	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel .....	142.8	128.8	140.3	-8.0	-1.8	8.9
Gasoline (all types) .....	141.1	127.3	138.7	-8.0	-1.7	9.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	139.2	124.9	137.0	-8.7	-1.6	9.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	134.2	121.8	131.5	-7.5	-2.0	8.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	139.1	126.7	136.1	-6.4	-2.2	7.4
Medical care .....	-	255.5	-	-	-	-
Recreation (5).....	-	93.2	-	-	-	-
Education and communication (5).....	-	108.4	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services .....	-	304.7	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Sep. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Commodity and service group						
All items .....	-	191.0	-	-	-	-
Commodities .....	-	150.5	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	-	129.2	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	-	138.1	-	-	-	-
Durables .....	-	116.8	-	-	-	-
Services .....	-	224.6	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care .....	-	187.9	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter .....	-	168.3	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food .....	-	131.9	-	-	-	-
Nondurables .....	-	161.9	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food .....	-	141.7	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter (2) .....	-	205.2	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services .....	-	222.3	-	-	-	-
Energy .....	168.2	154.5	157.5	1.9	-6.4	1.9
All items less energy .....	-	195.7	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy .....	-	198.4	-	-	-	-

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.